



February 2007

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For this Month's Meeting:

What	Who
Raffle	Ed and Moyna Prince
Sales Table	Antonio Arbalaez

SECOND MEETING OF 2007

FEBRUARY 6, 2007 MEETING 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Gyula Nemeth

TOPIC: Bromeliad Plants Grown in Middle or Northern Florida – Anyone who came to Extravaganza may have seen him (vision was obstructed by cigarette smoke for many) or met him as he manned a booth there.

RAFFLE TABLE: Ed and Moyna Prince

DOOR PRIZE: Jorge Rodriguez

REFRESHMENTS: Patty Gonzalez , Ofelia Sorzano, Jorge Rodriguez, Peggy Fisher, Barbara Sparling, Sharon Maessen

SHOW AND TELL TABLE: Bring your problem plants and our experts will try to help. If you have something unusual or in bloom, bring it in and share it with us. The S&T table is where we can get some quick tips from our resident experts.

THIS IS A REALLY UNIQUE BROMELIADVISORY

This issue takes you to places not seen before – carnivory.

Moyna Prince gives us a review of our library's new addition – "Pitcher Plants of the Americas." The topic *includes* bromeliads – who knew it!!!! A few Plantoid trivia items adorn this issue to aid the reader about this unique topic.

Plantoid: *Pitcher Plant:* carnivorous plants whose prey-trapping mechanism features a deep cavity filled with liquid known as a pitfall trap.

February Plant Clinic

By: Lynne Fieber

Since your cold weather plan is now in tip-top shape, thanks to the last newsletter's comprehensive treatment, let's focus this month on those two (2) other factors important to show-winning perfection. Everyone repeat after me: Light and Water.

Several of my future show winners jumped the gun in the past 2 weeks and have begun to flower. (Oh, no!) Meanwhile, I was out of town for almost a month, when some of my plants got turned or watered. I came home to thirsty plants anchored in rock-hard potting medium, and flower stalks leaning excessively to one side as they reached toward the light. All are symptoms vividly illustrative of how important regular watering and turning are to a fast-growing bromeliad.

If you've been watching out and caring for your plants regularly, you're a better grower than I am at this point in time, and should feel distinctly superior. But if by chance you see yourself in my neglect, then you might want to indulge your plants in some of my remedial care, as follows.

I soaked all my plants heavily with a hose, twice in 3 days, and vowed to water regularly from now until April. I turned the bloomers 180° to directly oppose the direction taken by the inflorescence. I rotated all other plants 90°, with a plan to turn these last plants another 90° in 10 days or so, to catch up on my rotation schedule. In the next few days, I plan to exchange the mix for plants whose potting mix strikes me as old and tired, but using the same pots the plants are in now.

I have a feeling this may involve quite a few of my plants, and I look upon it as an opportunity for poor-woman's fertilizer. The new mix will sustain mild growth, during the months when chilly weather endangers my plants, without the pronounced forcing phenomenon of "real" fertilizer.

Oh, and those early bloomers? No problema! I've got back-ups. I think the plants that are blooming were the first pups from the previous generation. Their younger siblings should be gloriously mature right on time for our show! While the number of candidate

plants I have for the show is immediately halved, I've got new plants for my indoor blooming bromeliad shelf!

JANUARY MEETING: In Case You Missed It

By Moyna Prince

The first meeting of the year was held on the second day, and **Sharon Biddix-Maessen**, vice president and program chair, introduced one of our own, **Alan Herndon**. Alan's topic was that always-debatable subject, potting mixes, but everyone relaxed when Alan said you don't really need potting mixes. Put the plant in the ground and it'll grow. But we also grow in pots, and you'll get faster, better growth with a good set of roots. Aeration is probably the most important component to a potting mix, and that's provided by air pockets in the mix that allow for quick drainage. Coconut chips hold water yet have air spaces between the chips and also help to hold the plant upright. A good basic mix of sphagnum peat moss and perlite is widely available and combines moisture-holding elements (peat moss) with aeration and drainage (perlite). A nifty tip from Alan was to hold a large plant upright with three bamboo stakes. Even if the pot is blown over, the stakes will still hold it in place.

Alan and Rhonda also provided the plants for the raffle table, a good selection of mostly hybrid Neoregelias, plus some species. Door prizes were donated by **Ed and Moyna Prince** and **Steve Corrales**. **Mike Michalski** donated three *Aechmea wittmackiana* plants, and a beautiful Neo. *concentrica* 'Moonshine' was donated by **Shirley Berckmans**. The refreshments were provided by **Patty Gonzalez**, **Gini Lepper** and **Joy Parrish**. Thanks to all our generous members.

The Princes brought in three blooming Tillandsias for show and tell: *Till. duratii*, which has a tall inflorescence with fragrant flowers; *Till. bulbosa*, a weird plant with long, contorted leaves, the center ones turning scarlet when in bloom; and *Till. ionantha* var. *vanhyningii*, quite different-looking from the regular *ionantha*. There was also an *Orthophytum lemei*, with grey scurfy leaves and a tall inflorescence with insignificant flowers. **Bob Mills** brought in two plants for identification, an *Aechmea ramosa* hybrid and a lovely *Aechmea beeriana*. **Ofelia Sorzano** had several plants needing names, some of which have been found in local gardens for years: there were two *Billbergia* hybrids, probably related to *Fantasia*, a nice *Aechmea orlandiana* and its offspring 'Bert,' and a small form of *Aec. bromeliifolia*.

BOOK REVIEW

By Moyna Prince

New Book for the Library*PITCHER PLANTS OF THE AMERICAS:*

Stewart McPherson

McDonald & Woodward Publishing Co.,
Grandville, OH

With its focus on the pitcher plants of the Americas, this book reviews three true pitchers – i.e. carnivorous plants – and two bromeliad genera. The pitchers are in the family Sarraceniaceae, comprised of *Heliamphora*, which is endemic to northern South America; *Darlingtonia*, restricted to a section of the Pacific coast in the U.S.; and *Sarracenia*, widespread over southern Canada and eastern U.S. The bromeliad genera covered in the book are *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis*.

True pitcher plants have tubular funnel-shaped leaves that collect water and attract insects, which they devour. The two bromeliad genera, *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis*, are suspected of being carnivorous but they have the typical bromeliad rosette arrangement of leaves, and – like many bromeliads – hold water and debris.

The two *Brocchinia* species described in this book, *B. hechtioides* and *B. reducta*, are found in the highlands of northern South America (Guiana, Venezuela and eastern Colombia) and are not likely to show up in South Florida collections. *Catopsis berteroniana*, however, is a Florida native and is also found in Central and northern South America. Ken Marks has an excellent three-part article in the *Journal of The Bromeliad Society* (Vol. 56(4, 5 &6), 2006) about his quest for Florida's bromeliads, and finding *C. berteroniana* in Everglades National Park.

The chapters on the Sarraceniaceae are interesting and comprehensible even to a complete novice. The photographs, mostly in habitat, are stunning. Line drawings and maps complete your education. The section on *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis* is very well written. Photographs clearly show the chalky white coating at the base of the leaves of *C. berteroniana*. This coating, which covers all the leaves to some degree, may cause insects to fall into the leaf axils and cup and become

trapped. The disintegrating debris provides nutrition to the plant.

Given a technical topic, this book kindly educates the reader with non-technical verbiage. Check it out of our library to read about the bromeliads, and enjoy learning about pitchers as a bonus.

*Brocchinia reducta*

Photo by Francisco Oliva-Esteve

NOTE: If you are missing the color – join the e-mail group of the BromeliAdvisory.

Connie Johnson Memorial Brick

The brick memorializing the late Connie Johnson at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden was installed last month. You will find it in the Mimusop Circle on the pathway between the Visitor's Center and the Tram Stop.

If you have trouble finding it, contact Stephanie Bott at FTGB, who will gladly help.

WHERE HAS ALL OF THE TIME GONE???

THE ANNUAL SHOW IS JUST MONTHS AWAY – April, 21 -22 2007

By Robert Meyer

After dedicating our January BromeliAdvisory to cold weather while the meteorologists describe this as the hottest or second hottest winter on record: we can conclude there is good news and bad news.

First the bad news: We remain exhausted from the Extravaganza. To put it bluntly, that wonderful event depleted our “Annual Show” energy, especially as it followed the Annual Show by a matter of a few months. **Ed Prince** should endlessly boast proudly about the Extravaganza’s unprecedented success – financial and eventful – and our society can never overthank Ed and Moyna for their engrossing energies which bolstered that “once in my lifetime (Ed Prince quote)” event.

Now, the good news: We have no excuses for delivering plants by the bushel to the show. No hurricanes. No cold spells (knock on wood). No droughts. No nasty whatever could be in the way of a good show. Hence, for those who have been religiously reading (or even skimming) the Lynne Fieber journal about how to prep and deliver to the show plants – so as to provide entries which do something other than make the judge’s experience strabismus (crossing of their eyes), we expect you to deliver. And deliver. And deliver more.

Your plants will be more required than in the past as our beloved **Nat DeLeon** (The Godfather of Bromeliads) very likely cannot prep, gather, garnish, and show his incredibly unique and radiantly colored hybrids. We probably have taken his entries far too much for granted. And, if we suffer the loss of such entries, it would be troubling on many levels – loss of quantity of entries, incredible loss of quality of plants, and, most importantly, loss of his personality (as depicted through his plants and presence) within the otherwise sterile confines of the auditorium.

For these reasons, I implore upon my fellow BSSF’ers to deliver no less than 3 plants. I

hope for more. I am delivering no less than 5. If 20 people deliver 5 plants apiece, the show will have a solid number of entries, and hopefully the volume delivers variety. And variety combined with quantity makes a good show.

IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE INVOLVED, call me. (305) 285-8838 during the day or (305)668-334 after business hours. Or e-mail me at meyerrobertc@cs.com and entitle the e-mail as “SPRING SHOW.”

I thank you in advance.

Your show chairman,
Robert C. Meyer.



Left: *Orthophytum albopictum*
Photo by Andreas Hofacker



Right: *Orthophytum benzingii*
Photo by Ken Marks

Bromeliadtoid – A factoid about Bromeliads
A few species of bromeliads (Bromeliaceae), such as *Brocchinia reducta* and *Catopsis berteroniana* are known or believed to be carnivorous. Bromeliads are monocots. Thus, given that they all naturally collect water where their leaves meet each other, and that many collect detritus, it is not surprising that a few have been naturally selected to develop into carnivory by the addition of wax and downward-pointing hairs.

Plantoid 2: The families *Nepenthaceae* and *Sarraceniaceae* are the best-known and most speciose groups of pitcher plants.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

ONCE AGAIN LOVE IS IN THE AIR...
That is...the love of bromeliads !!

We all need to start thinking about getting involved in the Annual Show & Sale.

There are many positions to be filled and lots of fun to be had.....there also is a lot of planning to do.

So open your calendars to April 19-22 and make some time to be an active member and participate !!

AND did I mention the dinner party we are planning at my home for the Judges and Members that are working at the show on Friday the 20th ???

Peace n Love,

Sandy

DEERING ESTATE NEWS
Deering Estate Tour

LAST CALL!!!! We still have a few openings for the tour of the Deering Estate. If you would like to join this group, please call Moyna Prince (305-251-5289) as soon as possible.

WHEN: Saturday, February 3, 9:00 A.M.

WHO: Rick Cohen will be leading a tour of the Deering Estate on February 3rd.

HOW LONG: The tour will last 3 – 4 hours and will take us through the wilderness area that’s usually off-limits to the public.

HOW MUCH: There is a \$7.00 admission fee.

WHAT DO I DO: If you want to join the tour, please call Moyna Prince (305-251-5289) or e-mail MoynaP@bellsouth.net

The visitors center, where we’ll meet, has bathroom facilities, but there are none on the trail. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat. Bring water, snacks, sun and bug protection. You can also bring a picnic to enjoy by the water after the hike. Hope that we will see you on the 3rd!

Calendar

Event	Date
Deering excursion	February 3
Meeting	February 6
Bullis excursion	February 10

SYDNEY SILVERMAN PASSED AWAY

Long-time member Sidney Silverman passed away on December 28, 2006. After he retired he started Sidney's Plants with his wife, Zelda. They did this for almost 10 years. He was president of the South Florida Fern Society and was active in the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Members attended his funeral held December 31, 2006.

In addition to his wife Zelda, Sidney is survived by his two sons and his grandson. We extend our condolences to his family

MEET YOUR SPEAKER

Mr. Gyula Nemeth resides in Land O' Lakes, Florida. He has been a landscaper and grower for 10 years. Presently, he is a member of two Bromeliad Societies: Vice President of Bromeliad Society West Coast and (former Vice President) of Sarasota Bromeliad Society. He will discuss the unique growing issues in his cool middle of the state climate – which every year becomes gradually more akin to our own as global warming will place each of us in Zone 32 before the year 2010.

This lecture should deliver more extremely useful tips on handling those bundles of plants you are prepping, babying and suffocating with love for the Annual Show.

Time to Pay Your Dues

Dues must be paid by Feb. 28 for you to be retained on our mailing list. If there’s a red check mark by your name on the label it means we haven’t received your dues and this will be your last issue of the BromeliAdvisory. Please send your check (payable to BSSF) to Moyna Prince, 11220 SW 107 Ct., Miami, Fla. 33176. \$20 single, \$30 dual.

Plantoid 3: *International Carnivorous Plant Society* - A wealth of information about the natural history, conservation, and cultivation of carnivorous plants is hosted by this society.
SITE: <http://www.carnivorousplants.org>

POETRY CORNER

The following poem, reprinted from the *Bromeliad Gazette*, the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia, appeared in their Jan/Feb 2007 issue. BSI cultivar registrar Derek Butcher says “Apparently budding taxonomists in Edwardian days chanted the following:”

TAXONOMIC MNEMONIC

Repens and reptans are rooting and creeping,
By runners sarmentosus is rooting and leaping.
Ascendens, adsurgens nearly upwards are shooting,
By stolons stoloniferus is running and rooting.

Descendens grows downwards, decumbens is flopping;
Erectus straight upwards, cernuum is dropping.
Procumbens, humifusus, and patens are spreading,
Diffusus in every direction is heading.

Deflexus bent downwards, reflexus bent backwards;
Inflexus bent inwards, convolutus rolled up.
Revolutus rolled backwards, involutus rolled inwards,
Secundus one-sided, calathinus with cup.

Vollusus' long soft hair is growing old;
Hirsutus' unshaved beard is coarse and bold.
Hispidus bristly with a two-day growth;
Strigosus, hirtus, sharp and rigid both.

Silky sericeus flaunts its fine smooth hair;
Arachnoidea cobwebbed like a spider's lair.
Ciliatus' leaves like lids of eyes have lashes,
Fimbriatus fringy like Edwardian sashes.

Tomentosus' thick short hair you stroke;
Velutina's velvet on Queen Mary's toque.
Incanus hoary white, a plant for shows;
Thick wool on lanatus longer grows.

Like baby hair pilosus short and sleek;
And here's pubescens, downy, dense and weak.
Crinitus' long soft hair's in little puffs;
Barbatus is mustachioed in tufts.

BROMELIAD

By Sharon MacDonald

A plant that lives on the branch of a tree
Is a special gift from nature to me.
Food and water are drawn from the air.
It has no roots to hold it up there.
High on the branches it sits aloft.
Isn't it worried it might fall off?

ARTISTIC CORNER

Thanks to Lynne Fieber and Michael Schmale



DeLeon's *Nidumea* Pink Starlight

Missing the color???

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Herndon's *Vriesea* Sheba